

Château Gazin 2018

CSPC# 848124

750mlx6

14.5% alc./vol.

Grape Variety

93% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Franc

Appellation

Pomerol

Classification

Bordeaux AOC (*Appellation d'origine contrôlée*)

Website

<http://www.gazin.com/en/>

General Info

The Pomerol vineyard developed from the 12th century up to the French Revolution of 1789 around the Commanderie of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta. The present day, Château Gazin, which was once a village in the 18th century, is located on the site of the hospital built by the Knights to host the pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostella.

The logo for Chateau Gazin was inspired by an ancient connection to Knights of the Templars. Not only is the logo for Chateau Gazin old, so is the property. It dates all the way back to 1772 when the Pomerol vineyards were purchased by Antoine Feuilhade. Over the years, Chateau Gazin was sold and resold to numerous owners before it was bought by the current owners, the Bailliencourt family.

The estate's Bordeaux wine vineyards are large for the Pomerol appellation. They are 64.2 acres. The vineyards are in one single parcel, which is also unusual for Pomerol. The terroir is clay with gravel. Gazin is situated on the Pomerol plateau.

Chateau Gazin has good neighbors. They share borders with Petrus and L'Evangile! In fact, in 1969, Chateau Gazin sold 12.5 acres to Petrus. While the sale helped the cash starved property, the loss of those vines reduced the quality of Chateau Gazin.

Further exacerbating the loss of quality was when the estate switched to machine harvesting in 1979, coupled with an increase in yields. Both practices have been discontinued today.

Winemaker

Michel Obert

Vintage

2018 Pomerol continues the appellations streak of recent great vintages, 2009, 2010, 2015, 2016 and now 2018. While each of those years offer incredible wines with characteristics you can only find in Pomerol, at their best, perhaps 2018 outclasses all those previous years.

It is the style and character found in 2018 Pomerol that makes the vintage so good. At their best, they have incredible levels of depth. They are concentrated, rich and alcoholic. But the pH is low enough, making the acidity high enough to provide lift and energy on the palate.

At their best, the top wines offer a decadent tasting experience that drenches your palate with layers of decadently textured fruits that feels off the charts. These are exciting wines that fans of Pomerol will want in their cellar.

2018 Pomerol did not start out promising. The early part of the growing season found a region drenched from almost non-stop rains. To give you an idea of how much water fell in Pomerol, from January to July, close to 24", (600 mm) drenched the region over 6 months!

The biggest issues came with the rains that fell in April and May. All that rain brought attacks of mildew, which had the potential to wreak havoc. Growers with the resources to act quickly were able to fight off most of the mildew. Crop losses were mild with 2018 Pomerol.

While the soils were saturated by July, the clay terroirs soaked up as much water as possible before expelling the rest. This proved to be part of the magic recipe needed to create 2018 Pomerol. Because the second half of the growing season turned out to be one of the hottest and driest vintages of the past 50 years!

Vintage

For many soils, especially sandy terroirs, there was not enough water to allow the grapes to reach full desired levels of ripeness. But the plateau with its clay soils retained ample water to promote maturity in the vines. The harvest took place in



Vintage	picture-perfect conditions over an extended picking window. Conditions were so good; vigneron were able to pick at their chosen level of maturity.
Vineyards	The terroir at Château Gazin consists of Gunzian gravel on the surface and a subsoil of blue and green clay with iron oxides (iron residues). As is characteristic of great terroirs, these clays (smectites) ensure that the vines have a reasonably stable supply of water. Château GAZIN's terroir essentially consists of the clay-gravel subsoil of the Pomerol plateau. The vineyard is planted with 90% Merlot, 7% Cabernet Sauvignon and 3% Cabernet Franc. The average age of the vines is 35 years. The vines are planted with a density of 5,500 to 7,000 per hectare. HVE Level 3 certification.
Harvest	The summer heat ensured perfectly ripe grapes, while spring showers, combined with the blue clay subsoil of the Pomerol plateau, protected from draught. Major mildew attacks in early June were perfectly controlled, enabling 34hl per hectare to be harvested out of the 21.8 hectares currently in production.
Vinification/ Maturation	The 2018 vintage contains 14.5% alcohol alongside a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. It was aged for 18 months, following malolactic fermentation in new barrels for 50% and 50% 1-yr old barrels.
Tasting Notes	The 2018 vintage is undeniably one of the greatest produced from our estate in the past 30 years. In terms of finesse, it outweighs the very good 2016. This wine is incredibly fresh, with a long aftertaste thanks to its smooth texture and aromatic complexity. For now, subtle aromas of red and black fruit (morello and blackcurrant) and flower fragrances characterize it. After ageing for several years, classic Pomerol notes shall come to the fore subtly: truffle, undergrowth, game. At the same time, the very concentrated and silky tannins perfectly balance the alcohol level which does not dominate the discreet and well-integrated oaky overtones. This wine should reach peak in 10 years or so. Bottled June 2020.
Serve with	Chateau Gazin is best served at 15.5 degrees Celsius, 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The cool, almost cellar temperature gives the wine more freshness and lift. Chateau Gazin is best served with all types of classic meat dishes, veal, pork, beef, lamb, duck, game, roast chicken, roasted, braised, and grilled dishes. Chateau Gazin is also good with Asian dishes, hearty fish courses like tuna, mushrooms, and pasta.
Cellaring	Drink 2024-2045
Scores/Awards	<p>93-96 points - James Molesworth, Wine Spectator - Web Only 2019</p> <p>93+ points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - March 2021</p> <p>91-93 points - Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-95 points - James Suckling, JamesSuckling.com - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Roger Voss, Wine Enthusiast - April 1, 2019</p> <p>16+ points - Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com - May 2019</p> <p>16 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - October 2020</p> <p>15.5 points - Julia Harding, JancisRobinson.com - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - November 2020</p> <p>94 points - Jane Anson, Decanter.com - April 2019</p> <p>95 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeff Leve, thewinecellarinsider.com - April 2019</p> <p>15.5 points - Farr Vintner - May 2019</p> <p>94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - March 2021</p> <p>92-94 points - Neal Martin, Vinous - November 2020</p> <p>91-94 points - Antonio Galloni, Vinous - May 2019</p> <p>97 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - March 2021</p> <p>94-96 points - Jeb Dunnuck MW - May 2019</p> <p>17.5+ points - Matthew Jukes, MW - April 2019</p> <p>94 points - Falstaff Magazine (score only) - May 2021</p> <p>94 points - Jeannie Cho Lee MW, asianpalate.com (score only) - May 2019</p> <p>93 points - Jean Marc Quarin (score only) - March 2019</p>

- Reviews** *“Dark plum and blackberry reduction flavors pick up light ganache and licorice snap notes along the way. Has the vintage's grip on the back end, giving this a serious feel. Barrel Sample: 93-96.”*
- JS, Wine Spectator
- “Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2018 Gazin (a blend of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc) leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of warm plums, black raspberries and kirsch, plus suggestions of wild mushrooms, fragrant earth, Sichuan pepper and tree bark. The medium to full-bodied palate delivers impressive energy with approachable, rounded tannins and a lively backbone framing the crunchy red and black fruits, finishing long and earthy.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2018 Gazin (composed of 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc) has quite an earthy/broody nose to begin, with subtle black soil, tar and chargrill notes giving way to a core of prunes, baked blueberries and sautéed herbs. Full, muscular and chewy in the mouth, it has loads of earthy layers and a dried herbs lift on the finish.”*
- LPB, Wine Advocate
- “Rich aromas of blueberries, ripe black cherries, chocolate and sandalwood. It's full-bodied with firm, well integrated and rounded tannins. Solid depth of fruit here. Creamy and polished. Better after 2024.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “This is very tight and polished with a compact and beautiful palate of blackberries, currants and black olives. Full-bodied yet structurally solid with a very long finish.”*
- JS, JamesSuckling.com
- “For its weight, this wine is also elegant. Rich, lush Merlot fruit flavors have a sense of restraint, self-contained and already delicious. The ripe berry flavors promise a wine that will have opulent fruit as well as structure.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Smooth and juicy, this is ripe in a blackberry flavor. The wine's rich fruits are shot through with the fresh acidity that marks so many Merlots from Pomerol in this vintage. The wine is sure to age well.”*
- RV, Wine Enthusiast
- “Lustrous crimson – very dense. Attractive spice on the nose but just a little spindly on the palate. Quite marked acidity. There is considerable tannin here but not that much fat or charm. Rather awkward at the moment.”*
- JR, JancisRobinson.com
- “Black almost to the rim. Ripe, sweet, spicy, and dense, earthy too. Thick, chewy, and sweet on the palate. Full and broad rather than elegant but the tannins are smooth if compact. Just enough freshness for balance.”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “Inky core, purple rim. Rich, dark and seductive on the nose. Toasty oak and ripe fruit. Thick, chalky tannins gum up your mouth and there's more alcohol than freshness. Challenging and not really integrated – acid seems to stick out on the end?”*
- JH, JancisRobinson.com
- “This is a good-quality, serious wine. It has some firm tannins and a ton of fruit, and underneath it all the luxurious feel of a quality Pomerol. 2018 marks 100 years under the de Baillencourt family. 50% new oak. Drinking Window 2026 – 2045.”*
- JA, Decanter.com
- “This is a little less densely knitted than Gazin in some vintages, perhaps because there is no Cabernet Sauvignon in the blend, but it has clear blueberry fruits, with black chocolate and graphite edges. There's plenty of personality and grip and the Gazin tannins flex their muscles at the close of play – it's good, but for me the 2016 is a more classic example of the estate. 50% new oak was used. 3.67pH.”*
- JA, Decanter.com

Reviews

“Plums, truffle, chocolate covered cherries and licorice hit all the right notes. Rich, silky, plush, and concentrated with layers of suave cherries and plums. This is so good now; it is hard to resist. But wait another 7-8 years and it will be a markedly better wine. This could be one of the best vintages ever produced at Chateau Gazin. The wine is made from blending 93% Merlot with 7% Cabernet Franc.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Already offering its earthy truffle side, the fruits are soft, floral, polished, sweet, and plummy. Elegant and rich, this is a fine example of Gazin delivering a serious dose of cocoa dusted kirsch in a graceful finish. The wine is made from blending 93% Merlot with 7% Cabernet Franc.”

- JL, thewinecellarinsider.com

“Rich and peppery on the nose with fleshy, seductive blue fruits and sweet vanilla. The palate is succulent and ripe, with very juicy black fruits but hints of herbal, savoury notes that provide the balance and harmony. The plush, rounded tannins allow the complex sweet and savoury elements of the fruit to shine on this long, enduring and classically styled Pomerol.”

- Farr Vintners

“The 2018 Gazin has a lively, generous bouquet of vivacious wild strawberry, boysenberry and hints of tobacco. The aromatics are well delineated and focused. The palate is medium bodied with supple tannins, offering seductive black fruit mixed with black pepper, truffle, and clove. There is so much finesse toward the finish that it is approachable now, yet it certainly has the substance to suggest long-term aging. Not to be underestimated, this is another wonderful Gazin. 2024 – 2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Gazin is very seductive on the nose with small dark cherries, wild strawberry, truffle and tobacco notes unfurling in the glass. The palate is medium bodied with grainy tannins, good backbone and precise black fruit laced with white pepper and bay leaf. This is quintessential Gazin with wonderful salinity on the finish. A classy offering from Nicolas Bailliencourt that will age with class. Drink 2024-2050.”

- NM, Vinous

“The 2018 Gazin was impressive all three times I tasted it. Powerful and vibrant, with terrific persistence, the 2018 has more than enough supporting structure to balance the natural richness of the year. Grilled herbs, scorched earth, iron, licorice, mint and dried flowers give the red/purplish toned fruit a decidedly savory dimension that is hugely attractive. Some samples showed quite a bit of tannin, but the wine has more than enough breadth to develop beautifully during élevage and beyond. Tasted three times.”

- AG, Vinous

“A rock star in the making, the 2018 Château Gazin is made from 93 %Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. Rich, powerful, and medium to full-bodied, it has a serious feel in its structure and tannin as well as awesome notes of candied cherries, cassis, chocolate, and crushed rocks. With beautiful purity, it builds beautifully on the palate and has both richness and elegance. It’s going to benefit from short-term cellaring and cruise for 20+ years.”

- Jeb Dunnuck

“The deep purple, inky-hued 2018 Château Gazin comes from the Pomerol plateau and is 93% Merlot and 7% Cabernet Franc. A brilliant nose of blueberries, candied cherries, wildflowers, tobacco, chocolate, and spice gives way to a stunning Pomerol with full-bodied richness, a layered, seamless texture, ultra-fine tannins, and a great finish. This plush, sexy, opulent Pomerol does everything right. It already offers pleasure yet will ideally be given 4-6 years of bottle age and will have two decades or so over overall longevity.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com

“(93 Merlot, 7 Cabernet Franc) | 14.5% alc There is some nice depth of fruit on the nose, and it leads with this theme as opposed to oak, which is a relief. The palate is juicy and ripe, and the finish manages to maintain this fruit, too. It is a big wine, but everything is in proportion and the oak, while quite prominent, does not overtake the wine.”

- MJ, matthewjukes.com
